

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /075 W
-----002752 071813Z /45

O P 071715Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8285
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 NICOSIA 2312

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: NIMETZ VISIT TO CYPRUS: CONVERSATIONS WITH
UN REPRESENTATIVES

SUMMARY. AFTERNOON OF SEPT. 5 COUNSELOR NIMETZ, AMBASSADOR STONE AND NIMETZ PARTY CONDUCTED CANDID AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE GALINDO-POHL AND HIS DEPUTY REMY GORGE. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AND VAROSHA. AT GOC REQUEST, GALINDO-POHL PRESENTLY INACTIVE BUT HE INTENDS TO STEP UP PACE OF HIS ACTIVITIES AFTER THE UNGA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN GREETING THE COUNSELOR, GALINDO-POHL COMMENTED THAT AMERICA WAS THEMOST IMPORTANT MEMBER OF UN AND THAT U.S. VIEWS AND ACTIONS REGARDING CYPRUS WERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HIS MISSION. IN RESPONSE TO NIMETZ DESCRIPTION OF HIS REVIEW OF GREEN LINE AND HIS PRAISE OF CONFIDENT

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PROFESSIONALISM OF UNFICYP ROLE IN BUFFER ZONE, GALINDO-POHL AND HIS DEPUTY GORGE EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR INCIDENTS RECENTLY AND THAT PHYSICAL TENSION BETWEEN OPPOSING ARMED FORCES NOW LOW AND TENDED TO STAY THAT WAY DESPITE UPS AND DOWNS IN POLITICAL ARENA.

2. GORGE COMMENTED THAT PUBLIC INTENSITY OF CYPRIOT

DESIRE TO CONVOKE SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION HAS DEMINISHED FOLLOWING KYPRIANOU'S VACATION IN GREECE. HE UNDERSTOOD CYPROTS WERE PRESENTLY TAKING PULSE OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHICH PARTICALLY EXPLAINED FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS' VISIT TO PRAGUE. IN THAT REGARD, GORGE MENTIONED THAT CYPROTS HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT PRESENT COMPOSITION OF SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS THEY MIGHT SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ROLE IN SOME UNCLEAR WAY AND THAT THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE FORMATION OF A SMALL COMMITTEE OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER STATES TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THEY NOW SEEM TO REALIZE THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST TURKEY ARE PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE.

4. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT GREEK CYPROTS WERE CONVINCED THEY COULD NOT GIVE UP MORAL SUPPORT THEY RECEIVE FROM INTERNATIONAL FORA BUT THEY DID NOT SAY HOW THEY WOULD PROCEED. THEY CLAIMED TO SEE NEED FOR BALANCE BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL DEBATE AND THE SEARCH FOR PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS VIA OTHER CHANNELS. NIMETZ OPINED THATA UN REJECTION OF A GREEK CYPROT REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST TURKEY WOULD BE A SEVERE DEFEAT. THIS POSSIBILITY MUST BE GIVING THEM PAUSE. APART FROM GENTLY MENTIONING THERE WERE VARIOUS RISKS, NIMETZ TOLD UN REPS THAT HE HAD NOT URGED CYPROTS TO FOLLOW ANY PARTICULAR COURSE RE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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5. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. IT WAS AGREED THAT GREEK CYPROTS SEEMED TO BE GROPING FOR WAYS TO GET NEW IDEAS ON THE TABLE BASED ON COMBINATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS AND MAKARIOS-DENKTASH GUIDELINES. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT THIRD PARTY, LIKE SRSG COULD PLAY USEFUL ROLE HERE. NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT RECONVENED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH IMMEDIATELY BROKE DOWN WOULD SET BACK THE ENTIRE PROCESS DANGEROUSLY. TO AVOID THIS THERE SHOULD BE CAREFUL PREPARATORY WORK BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. GALINDO-POHL AGREED ANDSAID IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO GET COMMITMENT FROM BOTH SIDES TO RESPOND TO EACH OTHER'S IDEAS AND QUESTIONS AND TO AGREE TO STAY AT THE TABLE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. HE ALSO SAID THAT KYPRIANOU'S SUGGESTION FOR "OPEN AGENDA" INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VAROSHA COUNTER PROPOSAL, PROVIDED A VALUABLE OOPENING WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LOST. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT KYPRIANOU HAD NOT LIQUIDATED THE MAKARIOS-DENKTASH GUIDELINES.

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /075 W

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O P 071715Z SEP 78

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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6. GORGE ASKED IF GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF A NEW CYPRIOT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATOR TO REPLACE PAPADOPOULOS. NIMETZ SAID IT HAD NOT COME UP. GORGE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE STILL ENGAGED IN SELECTION PROCESS AND THEN DISCUSSED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN MATCHUPS OF VARIOUS PERSONALITIES. HE SPECULATED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MICHAELIDES WAS STILL A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, AND THAT PRESENT DEPUTIES TRIANTAFYLLOIDES AND SOULIOTIOU WERE LESS LIKELY TO BE SELECTED. (N.B., IN LATER DISCUSSIONS ON TURKISH SIDE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR ONAN WILL CONTINUE. HE HAS HAD SOME QUITE CONTACTS WITH TRIANTAFYLLOIDES AND DOES NOT BELIEVE HE OR SOULIOTIOU WOULD BE PICKED ONAN, LIKE UN REPS, WAS CURIOUS ABOUT STATUS OF NEGOTIATOR ON GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE.)

7. PRESENT ROLE OF GALINDO-POHL: GALINDO-POHL STATED THAT HE IS NOT ACTIVE AT MEMENT BECAUSE KYPRIANOU EXPLICITLY
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ASKED HIM TO NOT PURSE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON VAROSHA PROPOSALS UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN FROM UNGA IN EARLY FALL. GALINDO-POHL SAID HE HAD ACCEDED TO THIS REQUEST PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE WAS NEWLY ARRIVED AND WAS JUST MASTERING THE

COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISSUE. HE STATED THAT HE DID INTEND TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE LATER IN THE FALL.

8. VAROSHA/FAMAGUSTA: FOR REASON DESCRIBED IMMEDIATELY ABOVE, SRSG HAS NOT FORMALLY PRESENTED THE UN SECRETARIAT'S COMPROMISE SUGGESTION RE VAROSHA TO THE PARTIES. GALINDO-POHL EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PARTIES WERE AWARE OF ITS GENEAL CONTOURS BASED ON INFORMAL NEW YORK CONTACTS. GORGE THEN EXPLAINED HOW CONCEPT OF EXPANDING UN BUFFER ZONE TO INCLUDE PART OF GREATER VAROSHA MIGHT WORK. GREEK CYPRIOT BLUE LINE WOULD REMAIN AS IS, WHILE TURKISH RED LINE WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO NORTH AND WEST AS AGREED TO BY PARTIES. AREA IN BETWEEN WOULD BE A "SORT OF FREE TOWN," WITH UN SUPERVISING ACCESS AND SECURITY AND LOCAL GREEK CYPRIOTS ADMINISTERING THEMSELVES UNDER CYPRIOT LAW AND HAVING ACCESS TO CYPRIOT LEGAL AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES. UN COSTS WOULD BE MET IN NORMAL WAY BY UN WHILE OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS WOULD BE FINANCED BY FEES CHARGED FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

9. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE GREEK CYPRIOT ATTITUDES, NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SIZE OF AREA TO BE RETURNED, NUMBER OF GREEK CYPRIOTS WHO COULD ACTUALLY BE ACCOMMODATED, VIABILITY OF ARA BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LACK OF PUBLIC SERVICES LIKE HOSPITALS, FIRE STATIONS, ETC., AND WHETHER GREEK CYPRIOT LAW WOULD APPLY.

10. IN DISCUSSION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT VIEWS, GORGE IMPLIED THAT DENKTASH SEEMED ULTIMATELY FLEXIBLE, WILLING TO

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EVENTUALLY TURN OVER "VAROSHA PROPER," AT LEAST ALL OF SEALED OFF AREA, TO FULL GREEK CYPRIOT CONTROL. HE WANTED TO DO IT, HOWEVER, IN A WAY THAT WOULD BOTH GET CYPRIOTS TO AND KEEP THEM AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. HE ALSO HAD PROBLEM THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD SETTLED AREA BETWEEN SEALED OFF AREA AND OLD FAMAFUSTA AND OTHER PARTS NORTH AND WEST OF OLD CITY. FOR POLITICAL REASONS, HE WOULD NOT WANT TO RESETTLE THEM AGAIN. HE WOULD HAVE LESSER PROBLEM WITH MAINLAND SETTLERS WHO WERE NOW IN AREA DIRECTLY WEST OF AREA TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.

11. NIMETZ SUGGESTED THAT UN MIGHT BE ABLE TO MOVE PARTIES CLOSER TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE EITHER ON BASIS OF UN BUFFER ZONE SUGGESTION OR VIA DETAILED DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO SOME KIND OF PHASED PROGRESS BY STAGES AND AREAS PARALLEL TO INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT USG DID NOT WANT TO SEE CYPRIOT RETURNEES MADE HOSTAGE TO SUCCESS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. GORGE REPLIED THAT HE HAD INFORMALLY

DISCUSSED WITH PELAGHIAS POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING WORKING LEVEL, DETAILED VAROSHA TALKS AT LEDRA PALACE. IN CONVERSATION, PELAGHIAS SEEMED AWARE OF UN PLANS, STATED FACE-TO-FACE TALKS NOT POSSIBLE DURING THIS PERIOD BUT THAT SHUTTLE TALKS THROUGH UN SPECIAL REP COULD PERHAPS BE ACCEPTABLE. THIS WILL BE PURSUED AFTER UNGA.

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /075 W
-----002876 071814Z/45

O P 071715Z SEP 78
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12. MISSING PERSONS SECTION IN SEPTEL.

13. NICOSIA AIRPORT. UN PROPOSAL UNDER STUDY IN ANKARA SINCE JULY 5. RESPONSE NOW REPORTEDLY BEING STUDIED BY NEW TURKISH FORCE COMMANDER. THIS IS IN ISSUE ON WHICH ANKARA IS SAID TO HAVE FINAL WORD FOR "SECURITY REASONS." IN DISCUSSIONS TURKS HAVE RAISED ISSUE OF UN USE OF ERCAN, TO BALANCE USE OF LARNACA, AND THE FIR QUESTION. RAPID RESOLUTION NOT LIKELY AS THESE POSE DIFFICULT POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH GO TO HEART OF BASIC CYPRUS PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI02312
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780364-1090
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780993/aaaaczfs.tel
Line Count: 272
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: ceff6856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1519672
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMETZ VISIT TO CYPRUS: CONVERSATIONS WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES SUMMARY. AFTERNOON OF SEPT. 5 COUNSELOR NIMETZ, A
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US, (NIMETZ, MATTHEW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ceff6856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014